

BALTIMORE, MD.
NEWS AMERICAN

E - 216,949

S - 313,342

MAY 4 1970

Connell Calls Community, Department 'Superfluous'

By ROY GREGORY
News American Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Del. Jerome F. Connell, Democratic candidate for Anne Arundel County Executive, fired his first campaign salvo here today with the county's Community and Industrial Affairs Department his target.

He described the CIA as "one of the greatest monuments to wasteful spending and duplicity of services that the taxpayers have ever been forced to foot the bill for, in county government."

Connell said while a link between county government and the communities was desirable, he "did not believe, for one minute, the administration had to spend some \$91,000 in salaries a year to furnish that link."

AS PRESENTLY SET UP, the CIA has five people assigned to various community groups throughout the county. It is their job to meet periodically with these groups to form a liaison between the community and government.

Connell said he would abolish the department and replace it in two ways.

First, he said, he would have a mobile executive office which he would take on regularly scheduled appearances throughout the county. "Wherever and whenever possible I intend to meet the people and listen to their problems."

Secondly, Connell said he would establish a "Citizens' Neighborhood Council" composed of one representative elected from each neighborhood improvement association to "serve as that association's link with the county government."

CONNELL SAID SUCH a council "would abolish the middle-man buffer between the Executive and the people" and added, "It would place the onus for action squarely on the County Executive, where it belongs in the first place."

He said, "It would also eliminate almost the entire cost of the CIA and enable that money to be better

spent on correcting problems and making needed improvements."

Describing the CIA "superfluous," Connell said the county can no longer afford the luxury of such a department.

"It doesn't take a large staff of politicians to assist citizens for this is what each county employee should be striving to do," he said. Neither does it take a staff of bureaucrats to bring government to the people. A county executive who actually meets with the people does this."

THE DEMOCRAT SAID the CIA "Must be regarded as a circumvention of the Charter." He said no such department was ever mentioned by the Charter Board "probably because the board did not feel government needed a public relations and advertising agency at taxpayers' expense."

Connell's attack on the CIA marked the first bomb tossed in the fight for the Executive seat. At the present time, there are four Democratic candidates and three Republicans.